

*In the Claims:*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

*Listing of Claims:*

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously amended.) A network of interconnected helper servers, each comprising

means for receiving requests for at least portions of continuous media objects from at least one receiver and at least one other of said helping servers,

means for storing selected first portions of continuous media objects received from at least one source server and others of said helper servers,

means for selectively forwarding stored portions of continuous media objects to others of said helping servers and receivers requesting at least portions of said continuous media objects,

wherein said continuous media objects comprise a plurality of ordered segments, and wherein said continuous media objects, and portions thereof, are arranged in serial sequences of said segments,

wherein each of said helper servers further comprises means for storing other segments of a continuous media object received from a plurality of servers for delivery to a receiver, said plurality of servers being selected from a group of servers comprising others of said helper servers and said at least one source server, and

wherein each of said helper servers comprises means for receiving advertising messages from others of said helper servers, said advertising messages indicating the availability at respective ones of said other helper servers of segments of an identified continuous media object.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously amended.) A network of interconnected helper servers, each comprising

means for receiving requests for at least portions of continuous media objects from at least one receiver and at least one other of said helping servers,

means for storing selected first portions of continuous media objects received from at least one source server and others of said helper servers,

means for selectively forwarding stored portions of continuous media objects to others of said helping servers and receivers requesting at least portions of said continuous media objects,

wherein said continuous media objects comprise a plurality of ordered segments, and wherein said continuous media objects, and portions thereof, are arranged in serial sequences of said segments,

wherein at least one of said helper servers stores an initial segment of at least one continuous media object having a popularity greater than a predetermined threshold popularity.

7-16. (Withdrawn)